

THE ATHENS POST.

BY SAM. P. IVINS.

ATHENS, TENN., FRIDAY, MARCH 4, 1850.

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TERMS:

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THE POST.

ATHENS, FRIDAY, MARCH 4, 1850.

Hon. Jefferson Davis has been re-elected United States Senator by the Legislature of Mississippi for six years from the 4th of March inst.

Gov. Crittenden, of Kentucky, has appointed the first Monday and Tuesday of May, for the holding of an election to vote upon the new Constitution.

The Democrats of Bedford county, Pa., have nominated Hon. James Buchanan for President, in 1852.

Seven American Mechanics were lately induced by an offer of high pay, to stop at Chagres and put up a building. Before the building was completed, six of the number were dead. The seventh took passage home in the Empire City, and breathed his last the moment she dropped her anchor in New York harbor.

The Richmond Whig says: It is a very remarkable fact, that the largest slave owners, not only in Virginia, but in all the South, are they who advocate the least violent measures. They ought to know their interests as well as their officious friends. They know that the Union, as it is preserved in the spirit in which it was formed, is an effectual protection to their property. They are therefore opposed to all the violent expedients of the demagogues, which tend to endanger the Union. It is their determination to cling to the Union as the ark of safety.

LARGE FEET.—Some think that large feet are ungentle, but they are convenient. A person with large feet stands a better chance in a high wind than one of small feet, as he is not so liable to over-set. Large feet are also more convenient for kicking rascals. On the other hand, large feet are inconvenient on account of the expense of shoe leather and stocking yarns. It also takes longer to wash large feet than small.

POLICE.—Jonathan H. Green, "the reformed gambler," was yesterday committed on a warrant issued by the U. S. Commissioner, charging him with an attempt to pass a counterfeit \$500 treasury note. At the time of his arrest a note of that description was found upon his person.—*N. Y. Com. Advertiser.*

TEA AND COFFEE.—The official returns for the past fiscal year show that the importation of Tea was 16,319,798 pounds which cost four millions seventy one thousand seven hundred and eighty-nine dollars. The importation of Coffee was 165,324,700 pounds which cost nine millions fifty-eight thousand three hundred and fifty-two dollars. Here is a sum paid out for tea and coffee which would nearly buy and pay for the entire cotton crop of Alabama.—*Mont. Journal.*

It is more difficult to make the eye lie, than any organ we are possessed of. To tell what a woman says, pay attention to her tongue; if you would ascertain what she means, pay attention to her eye. To talk in opposition to the heart is one of the easiest things in the world—to look this opposition, however, is more difficult than algebra. Again we say, never believe a girl hates you till you ask her eyes.

EVIL COMMUNICATIONS CORRUPT GOOD MANNERS.—Punch says that is the reason why editors are so apt to have their manners spoiled, they receive from one correspondent and another such a vast number of "evil communications!" Punch sets a saw remarkably well for an Englishman.

An iron jail was shipped on the steamer Belle Key, yesterday for some place down in Arkansas. It was manufactured here out of bars of iron, and when put together it will have the appearance of an enormous cage.—*Louisville Courier.*

AN ADDRESS,

Delivered before the Eromathesian Society, Hivawsee College, at its first meeting in the new College building; Feb. 12, '50.

BY D. M. KEY.

[Published by Request.]

As our discussion this evening is the commencement of literary exercises in our new and beautiful edifice, it has been required of me to make, in obedience to custom, whose rule is omnipotent, a few remarks in dedication of our temple of science.

This is, emphatically, an age of progress. A perfect go-aheadism is the order of the day. The Nineteenth Century is but half spread out on the great cycles of the past; yet, within its reign, the conquests of science, invention, and every other department of the empire of genius, have awake the world from the deep and sombre slumber of ages; and infused an energy and vitality into all the widely ramified machinery of human operations.

The iron manacles of despotism, under the ponderous weight of which, nations had toiled and groaned for many long centuries, have been loosened; and man has stood out, boldly and triumphantly, against his oppressors, in the defence of the rights vested in him by nature's God. The oppressive vestiges of feudalism have disappeared amid the crash of the earthquake shock of popular vengeance. If the Austrian serf and Russian boor have been unable to prostrate the power of tyranny, they have, nevertheless, made great advancements in the establishment of human freedom. Our own government has suddenly leaped up into the grandest and latest position in the scale of nations; and her influence is felt in the darkest corners of the earth, and the smallest isles that rest on the bosom of the ocean. Even the dominion of the Ottoman Porte, has felt the power of the march of mind; and the Mussulman has discovered that he has wrongs to avenge, and rights to maintain.

Nor have the triumphs of religion, in the last half century been less astounding.—Thousands of old altars of pagan superstition, reeking with the blood of human victims, have crumbled at the approach of the herald of truth. The bloody crescent is no longer borne aloft, amid the smoke of battles fought to drive men into an acknowledgment of the divinity of the commission of the prophet of Mecca. The imperious and dogmatic absurdities of the middle ages, have been swept off by the whirlwind; and the sun of christianity, riding in cloudless splendor, up the moral firmament, and flinging its heavenly light abroad upon the earth, already nears the zenith; and the christian, may soon behold the nascent beams of millennial day glory, breaking through the rifted clouds which have wrapped a world in gloom and the solitude of night.

The application of steam to machinery, has worked a revolution in commerce, and manufactures; while the spirit of invention and enterprise has propelled the car of improvement with amazing velocity in every other department of human labor. Tremendous results—aye, we might say, almost miraculous results, have followed in the train of the last fifty years. If some man who expired, as the death knell of the eighteenth century rang out on the earth, from the great toll of time—if such a one I say, could rise from the dead, such have been the mighty changes which have been wrought, he would think himself in another and better world.

In these vast accomplishments, literature always the friend of liberty and of man, has exercised an overwhelming influence. Like Prometheus of old, it has brought down the fire from heaven, to light up the dark pathway of mortals. As some lofty beacon, planted on the ocean's beach, flings its light amid the darkness and gloom of night, warning the mariner of the dangers he approaches; so the angel form of science, stands in colossal grandeur, bathed in eternal sun-light, pointing its finger to the rocks and shoals in the ocean of ages, upon which governments have been wrecked, and with prophetic eye, penetrating the darkness of the future, marks out the safe track for nations and men to pursue. It has not been many ages since the wreaths of science adorned the brows of the rich and great alone; but now, thank Heaven, in our country the blessings of knowledge are within the grasp of all, and, in the language of one of Tennessee's noble sons, "the poor boy, clad in rags, with no other dwelling than a log cabin, with a clap-board roof, may attain the proudest heights of human greatness, and sit down in the Presidential chair." Who were our Franklins, our Shermans, and our Jacksons, but men who, in their youth, struggled in the lowest valleys of adversity!

Who knows but in the crowd I now address, may sit some young man who, like Demosthenes, shall arouse the nation from its slumber, and turn the tide of its vengeance against the tyrant—or like Washington—or like Luther, stand the bold and inevitable champion of truth, and preach the everlasting Gospel in fearless defiance of the hosts of ignorance and heresy. I may not live to see the day, but I doubt not that before me sits some youth whose influence shall be felt, and whose name will shine on the bright escutcheon of his country.

But in our republic, distinction and influence are not gained without toil. It demands an unflinching resolution; an unbending fixedness of purpose; and an un-

conquerable perseverance, to climb the heights of fame and power. The poet has said with no little truth, "A little learning is a dangerous thing."

The pompous parade of literary attainments, the disgusting and shameful pedantry, so often met with, is not the offspring of genuine science and practical utility, but springs from a sickly, puny brain, maddened and deranged by a single drop from the fount of knowledge.

The world is on the advance, and we must march with it, else we will present the strange anomaly of men of a past age, living in the one that is rushing by us.—Thirty years ago, all the hills and valleys of Batt Creek—aye, the very spot upon which this structure stands, were the property of the savage. What a revolution in the swift flight of thirty years! The Indians whose no longer echoes among our mountains and dells; but the song of praise ascends to heaven from pious lips—the tall forests have sunk before the advancing footsteps of civilization and industry; and in their season, golden harvests, bending corn and luxuriant fruits, amply reward the toil of the husbandman.—The wigwams have disappeared, and in their stead, neat and comfortable mansions afford homes for an honest, industrious, intelligent and virtuous people. Here where once the ignorant squaw was the slave of her savage lord, live the fair wives and beautiful daughters of a superior race, by whom woman is not esteemed as the inferior and slave of man; but as is always the case, where learning and the Bible go, she is honored as his equal and companion.—Permit me to express an opinion—it may be the child of prejudice. It is this. In this community there is more sociality—true, genuine harmony and friendship, than in any other with which I am acquainted. In all the elements which form the basis of social intercourse; a lofty spirit of liberality; manly honesty and integrity; together with a proper acknowledgment of the rights of others and an upright discharge of the duties of man to his neighbor, this neighborhood may well challenge comparison with any other in East Tennessee. If it has but little wealth, it has no poverty; hence arises an equality in circumstances and influence, which allows no place for the various passions and jealous wranglings which inevitably result from the division of society into castes.

This genteel and commodious edifice is a monument of the munificence and public spirit of our community. In the midst of such gratifying reflections as these, can any one doubt of the ultimate success and commanding influence of our excellent institution. While upper East Tennessee is covered with colleges, can it, for a moment, be supposed that lower East Tennessee, with more practical talent, a higher toned spirit of enterprise and improvement, joined with superior natural advantages, cannot support a single college. I can but think, with the numerous facilities we possess, and the liberal charter recently granted by our legislature, our destiny is no longer problematical. I would warn the people of our section of the State against the multiplication of literary institutions of high grade. It requires a concentration of patronage—a centralization of means and influence to uphold such. In the counties of East Tennessee above us, there are, perhaps, eight or nine colleges. Some of them are, and have been for a long time, in a state of suspension, perfectly *functus officio*, whilst others are just able to breathe; still, whether dead or dying, they furnish a prolific source of quarrel or controversy, to a people, who, from what I see and hear, seem to be of quite a jealous and pragmatic disposition. Thousands of dollars are thus squandered, and so far from advancing the cause of education, it has been retarded, and but one or two of their formidable array of colleges can boast of a healthy existence.

Let me, gentlemen, impress one thing on your minds. When you shall have exchanged your present situation for this grander and more advantageous edifice, nothing will be added to your natural talents and capacities. Learning is the same, whether acquired in an old log school house, or in the most splendid halls dedicated to science. Mind is the same, whether it toils in the poor man's cottage, or amid the grandeur and magnificence of princely palaces. It is not so much the college that gives character to the man, as man to the college. You might revel in the most gorgeous literary temples, superintended by the profoundest teachers, but unless you labored to master your studies you would be benefited little. The most brilliant genius, ere it gains the top of science hill, will oft exclaim, with the old Roman bard, "*Hic labor, hic opus est!*"

While I discard the doctrine of the original, absolute, and universal equality of minds, I am far from believing there is that natural disparity some imagine. Mental exercise adds largely to the magnitude and powers of the intellect; whilst a capacious mind is often wrapt in oblivious darkness, from an indisposition to cultivate it. Permit me to entreat you to labor "in every good word and work," that you may rise in the scale of intelligence and intellect.—Sedately until you comprehend, if possible, every principle you are called on to investigate; and remember that, in winning laurels and fame for yourselves, you will fling a halo of renown around your Alma Mater, which, in after times, will attract to her shrine, the literary pilgrim and the student, pausing for the pure streams, gushing from her sacred halls, and thousands yet unborn will rise up and call her blessed.

It is said that when Hercules fought the giant Antaeus, the son of Earth, he found that every time he threw his antagonist to the ground he received fresh strength by the contact with his parent; nor could Hercules overcome him until lifting him up, he held Antaeus off the earth. So, gentlemen, when you shall have finished your literary course, and gone out to contend with the storms and trials of life, oft return, on pilgrimage, to the classic halls from which you drew the treasures of

knowledge—revisit the sacred spot around which so many pleasant associations and hallowed recollections linger. You will gain fresh strength to meet the buffetings incident to mortals.

In conclusion, let me invoke the blessings of heaven upon this glorious institution upon those whose liberality and energy reared it upon those upon whom the responsibility rests, of training and directing the minds of men, who, in a few years, must uphold the pillars of our temple of freedom; upon every devotee of science, whose name is, or may hereafter be, enrolled on the catalogue of her students; and may thousands of the poor young men of our country, have abundant reason to thank God that such an institution as Hivawsee College was ever established!

AN ACT.

To amend with the issuance of *Sciencifacius*, in certain cases.

SECTION 1. Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Tennessee, That from and after the passage of this act, it shall not be necessary to issue a *Sciencifacius* to revise judgment which have lain a year and a day without the issuance of an execution, and that execution may issue on the same after a year and a day from the rendition of the judgment just as if it had issued within that time.

Passed 21st December, 1849.

AN ACT.

To prevent the sale of the interest of *femes covert* in real estate.

SECTION 1. Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Tennessee, That from and after the passage of this act, when any *femes covert* shall, either before or after marriage become entitled to any interest in any lands, tenements, hereditaments, or other real estate whatever, either by gift, devise, descent, or in any other mode, it shall not be lawful by virtue of any judgment, decree or execution, against the husband of such *femes covert*, to sell or dispose of his interest in the real estate of the wife; or by virtue of the judgment, sentence or decree of any Court in this State, to dispossess or eject the husband and wife from the possession of the real estate of the wife, acquired in any manner either before or after marriage.

SECTION 2. Be it enacted, That the exemption of the husband's interest in his wife's lands as prescribed in the first section of this act, from sale, shall not extend beyond his wife's life, nor shall the husband sell the same during his wife's life time, without her joining in the conveyance in the manner prescribed by existing laws in which *femes covert* shall convey lands.

Passed, Jan. 10th, 1850.

Mr. C. and Mr. P. owned lots adjoining. Exactly on the dividing line in front stood a tree. Mr. P. wished to cut it down, as being in his way. Mr. C. remonstrated, it being a fine shade for his house. Angry words ensued, but Mr. P. eventually felled the tree. Mr. C. somewhat excited, applied to lawyer B. for advice. B. advised heedfully listening to C.'s story, advised him as follows: "This is one of those nice and delicate questions, wherein it is impossible to guess how a jury would decide. My opinion as its result might lead you into a fruitless law suit. My advice to you, therefore, is to go and pull P.'s nose! That would be a tangible case of assault and battery, about which there could be no dispute—and my fee is five dollars!" Not unlike the quack doctor, who said, "I don't say that this nasty stuff that I'm givin' you now will cure you, but it will throw you into fits and I'll cure fits—I'm death on 'em!"

A SINGULAR CASE.—A somewhat singular case has just been tried before the Circuit Court of Orange county. It appears that some time ago the wife of Mr. Ebenezer Seeley got a divorce from her husband, and subsequently married a lawyer named Crosby. The first husband succeeded in setting aside the divorce on the ground of informality, or want of jurisdiction in the power that granted it, and then sued the second husband for improper intercourse with his wife. The jury gave a verdict of \$1100 damages in favor of the plaintiff.—*Poughkeepsie Journal.*

Dr. Johnson, being once in company with some scandal mongers, one of them having accused an absent friend of resorting to rouge, he observed: "It is perhaps, after all, much better for a lady to redder her own cheeks, than to blacken other people's characters."

"Sambro, when you get dat watch you wear to meetin' lass Sunday?"
"How you know I hab a watch?"
"Bekase I seed de chain hang out de pocket in front."
"Go 'way nigger! 'spose you see halter round my neck, you tink dar is a horse inside ob me?"

A Hindoo law says: "Strike not, even with a blossom, a wife, though she be guilty of a thousand faults." The English law would let you "hit her again" with what the blossom grows on. Some difference, eh?

An Irishman who lived in an attic, being asked what part of the house he occupied, answered—"if the house were turned topsy-turvy, I'd be livin' on the first flure!"

EVERY MAN HIS OWN REFORMER.

The fatal tendency of the age, says the New York Mirror, is to sink the individual in the masses. Nothing can be done in the way of business without the incorporation of numbers; and nothing can be effected in morals without the organization of "unions" and "brotherhoods." A man must join a club to be respectable, a corporation to be successful, an association to be charitable, and a church to be religious. There are all sorts of "Societies," got up for all sorts of purposes, the members of which hardly dare give a penny to a famishing beggar, except in accordance with the "rules and regulations" of some association to which they belong.

Now we do not believe in these moral monopolies, by which the self-styled philanthropists propose to reform all creation, except themselves. On the contrary, we maintain the doctrine that every man must be his own reformer; and that the only really valuable influence which can individual can exert over another is, simply, the force of example. My industrious and thrifty neighbor stimulates me to follow in his footsteps, not by preaching about the duty of earning one's bread by the sweat of the brow, but by the prosperity and happiness which crown his labors. And thus temperance and piety are also inculcated; not by pledges and precepts, but by the purity of health, and the beauty of life, which accompany the daily practice of these eminent virtues.

The great Author of Christianity, and the humble Redeemer of sinners, did not deem it essential to the salvation of a human soul from ignorance and error, that "Societies" should formally organize for that specific purpose. He taught his followers to be kind, humane, and forgiving, without the formula of a creed; without even the "institution" of a church. Instead of erecting pompous palaces of devotion, and assembling His disciples one day in seven to listen to eloquent prayers, and enchanting music, He made Religion an element of every day life; devotion to God, a secret aspiration of the soul; and philanthropy, a love to man, the perpetual expression of social fellowship and universal brotherhood.

How unlike were the simple injunctions, the gracious efforts of the Saviour, to the noisy and ostentatious schemes for converting the world by steam, which we now witness on every hand. Instead of praying "in secret" over his own failings and follies, the modern Christian prefers to kneel on velvet cushions, in gorgeous churches, where he may be "seen of men;" and, instead of keeping the gifts of his left hand from the knowledge of his right, his "alms are done before men, and women too; and afterwards published in the newspapers."

The charity of the present age does not begin at home; it does not commence where it should, in the professional "Reformer's" own breast. The Abolitionists of the North are sighing and groaning, and praying, and raving over the miseries of negro Slavery; while the "victims" of their sympathy are at this very moment singing away the sunny hours among the pleasant fields of "sugar cane green"—and the poor white beggars of the cold Northern cities, are shivering and dying unheeded beneath the very windows of these "model Reformers." Alas! it is a most lamentable fact, that the fashionable philanthropy of the day is a very "long sighted" virtue; it can see no wretchedness until "distance lends enchantment" to the suffering; it has no ear for the wail, no "bowels" for the wants, which rise up beneath its very feet in all the hideousness of unromantic reality.

We always suspect the sincerity of a man's benevolence, the moment he begins to prate about the "awful condition of the heathen," while, in the thrilling rebuke of Randolph, "he neglects the heathen at his own door;" and we have yet to learn that, the men who make the greatest outcry about the horrors of Slavery are better men, better husbands, better fathers, better citizens, or better Christians, than the men whom they denounce as tyrants, devils, and the most damnable of all sinners. If every man would but "resolve himself into a Committee of the Whole," and pass a resolution to be his own reformer, from this time, henceforth, and for evermore, the Millennium would be nearer by some centuries than present appearances seem to indicate.

DUET BETWEEN LADIES.—A duet lately occurred at Madrid between two young ladies. One was ultimately shot in the leg; and the combat ceased *pro tem*. Finally, a reconciliation was effected by the gallant senior whose charms had evoked the apple of discord.

A bill has been reported in the Virginia House of Delegates, appropriating \$30,000 per year, for the removal of the free negroes to Africa.

GOLD HUNTING.—An incident was related to us yesterday of an old man from Syracuse, N. York, who had been taken sick at the mines out on the Sacramento and who, having exhausted all his provisions, was in a most deplorable state. He went about from tent to tent among the miners to beg a mouthful to eat to keep him from starvation. The miners, in scattering out, generally take a rod square, which is considered the limits of their diggings. Entering a camp one day, the old man begged for a meal, and told his story of adversity. "Let's give him a chance," said the men, "let's an old man and he is sick; what say you? let's help him out." "Well, agreed," replied the party. "Here, old man," said one of them, "you may have that spot over yonder where you see that rock; so take your pick and go to work." The old man started out, and the first day realized the sum of sixty dollars. This gave him new hope, and his friends rejoiced with him at his good luck. The next day, however, the old man was unlucky, and did not realize a cent. They told him to try it again, however, and he did so. In picking under the rock, after the exertion of a whole day, the old man found what is called a "hen's nest," from which, in one week, he realized the handsome sum of \$17,000; "His friends told him he had better stop now, as he was old, and start home. So he adopted their advice, and took the steamer at Chagres for New York. We hope the old gentleman may live to enjoy his good fortune.—*N. O. Picayune.*

CONSOLS.—The following, from the N. Y. Commercial, explains the meaning of this word, which we venture to say is not known to all our readers:

"Consol is only an abbreviation of the word consolidated." At various times the British Government has borrowed divers sums of money, payable at different dates and bearing different rates of interest. Occasionally the stocks issued, as evidences of these various debts have been taken up, or called in, and a new stock issued in their stead, payable at one fixed time and bearing one fixed rate of interest. Such a stock is called a consolidated stock or a "consol," and to distinguish it from others, the rate of interest it bears is generally mentioned; thus we read of three per cent, consols, &c. &c."

A RACE WITH THE CARS.—The Enquirer of yesterday tells the following racy yarn: "At Morrow a green looking man got upon the cars, tied a large cur dog he had with him to the iron stanchion of the hindmost car, and deliberately took his seat among the ladies. Away bounded the iron horse, with his usual speed, to the small wonderment of the countryman, who had never ridden so fast before. Arriving at Foster's Crossings, he walked back to take a look at his favorite animal, and his surprise may be imagined when he found only the head of the dog attached to the rope which he had fastened him.—After being perfectly satisfied that the 'dog was dead,' he merely uttered, 'Well, this is the only critter that could beat that dog running.'"

We judge, by the tone of the accounts from Washington city, that the prospects of a compromise are increasing daily. Members of Congress from the North are apparently becoming more reasonable and those from the South more moderate.—These happy results, which we trust, are not delusive, are ascribable to the clear, strong and patriotic California message of the President and to the noble compromise resolutions and eloquent speech of Mr. Clay.—*Lou. Jour.*

To relieve cramp in the stomach, take a pint of warm water, sweeten it well with molasses, and put in a teaspoonful of cayenne, and drink freely of it; at the same time heat the feet well by the fire, or put them into warm water which will always afford speedy relief.

Mrs. Jones who is always in favor of girls in fact there is nothing boy-stern about her, says to me: "Digby, how many miles be it from Boston to Salem?" "Fourteen," I replied. Well now tell me how many girls, if they took hold of hands, would it take to reach from Boston to Salem?" I guessed five thousand; whereupon the old lady burst into a loud laugh, and said, "it took just fourteen; for I can tell you, Mr. Digby, that a 'Miss is as good as a mile; any day.' I sloped.